

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 SP-02 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SSO-00 /087 W
----- 037184

P R 231145Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4011

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3649

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CANBERRA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: FORMAL PGNU REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE 1951 AID AGREEMENT

1. EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF MAY 23 RECEIVED FOLLOWING FIRST
PERSON NOTE TO CHARGE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT
MARKED "TRES URGENT":

"MR. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES,

"THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
SIGNED SEPTEMBER 9, 1951, BY THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA APPEARS TODAY
OVERTAKEN BY NEW CONJUNCTURE AND THE CURRENT REALITIES OF
THE COUNTRY.

"DURING THE YEAR IN COURSE, THIS FACT HAS PROVOKED REPERCUSSIONS
IN THE SPIRIT OF THE POPULATION AS EXPRESSED BY MOVEMENTS
WHICH COULD IMPAIR THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE LAO AND AMERICAN

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PEOPLES.

" FOR THIS REASON, THE PGNU, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, HAS PROPOSED TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THE SUPPRESSION OF USAID IN VIENTIANE AND ITS OFFICES IN THE PROVINCES, IN ORDER TO ALLOW AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO TAKE A FORM MORE IN CONFORMITY WITH REALITY AND WITH THE WISHES OF THE LAO POPULATION. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE ALREADY PROPOSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY WHITEHOUSE AND RECENTLY TO YOURSELF" I HAVE JUST LEARNED TODAY WITH JOY FROM HIS HIGHNESS THE PRIME MINISTER THAT YOU HAVE INFORMED HIM OF THE DECISION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DISSOLVE ALL THE OFFICES OF USAID IN THE PROVINCES AS WELL AS ITS CENTRAL OFFICE IN VIENTIANE.

" ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW DECISION BY WASHINGTON, THE PGNU PROPOSES TO INSTITUTE WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS TO WORK OUT A NEW ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES AND IN ADDITION TO REINFORCE THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE LAO PEOPLE AND TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

"WHILE AWAITING PROMPT REPLY ON YOUR PART: I BEG YOU TO BELIEVE, MR. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION."

(SIGNED) PHAGNA PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. COMMENT: THE SPEED WITH WHICH THIS NOTE WAS PREPARED AND DELIVERED PROVES THAT THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY CAN MOVE WHEN IT WANTS TO. TEXT AND TURN OF PHRASE INDICATE PHOUMI'S AUTHORSHIP AS WELL AS HIS KEEN DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD ON NEGOTIATING NEW AID AGREEMENT. WE SHALL CABLE TEXT OF PROPOSED REPLY AND RECOMMENDATIONS MAY 24.

CHAPMAN

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